

Dec. 16

Dec. 17 74

GOOD NEWS FOR THE CLAMMERS

State Health Department Removes Restrictions from Digging in Wheeler's Point Vicinity Until May 15 Next

Mayor John E. Parker was today informed by Edward Wright, sanitary engineer of the State Department of Public Health that restrictions on the taking of shellfish from the areas in the vicinity of Thurston's and Wheeler's Points have been suspended until May 15, 1931. This will enable clammers to dig those flats during the winter months.

This action comes as a result of a petition of local clammers to the municipal council to have the ban lifted during the cold weather. The matter was taken up by the council through Mayor Parker with the state department of public health and samples of shellfish and sea water were collected from the prohibited areas. Subsequent analysis showed that the area was free from dangerous contamination.

On December 9, Dr. George H. Bigelow, commissioner of public health, notified the Division of Fisheries and Game of the State Department of Conservation of the removal of restrictions on portion of the area which has been closed since December 8, 1925.

Letter to Mayor.

This morning, Mayor Parker received a copy of the letter, as follows:

December 9, 1930.

To the Division of Fisheries and Game Department of Conservation:

State House, Boston, Mass.

Gentlemen:—In response to a petition for the removal of the restrictions on the taking of shellfish from certain portions of the waters and flats about the city of Gloucester, particularly portions of the Annisquam river, the Department of Public Health has caused the locality to be examined and samples of shellfish and sea water to be analyzed.

Under date of December 8, 1925, the department determined that the waters and flats of Gloucester harbor and all estuaries tributary thereto,

inside or north of a line drawn from Tablet Rock on the westerly coast of Gloucester harbor easterly to the light on Ten Pond Island and continued in a straight line easterly to East Gloucester, and the Annisquam river and the estuaries tributary thereto, northerly to a line across the Annisquam river between the westerly point of Wolf Hill and the northeasterly point of Winiahdin, and also the water and flats of the Annisquam river along the westerly and northerly shores of Thurston's and Wheeler's Points, northerly from a point opposite the northerly extremity of Pearce's island, and also the waters and flats of Mill river and Lobster Cove were so contaminated that shellfish obtained therefrom were unfit for food and dangerous to the public health.

No Pollution.

A recent examination shows that the houses on Thurston's and Wheeler's Points are not occupied during this season of the year, and the results of the analysis of samples of shellfish and sea water recently collected from this portion of the Annisquam river show no material evidence of pollution. In the opinion of the department, shellfish taken from the area previously determined as contaminated in the vicinity of Thurston's and Wheeler's Points are now free from dangerous contamination.

Accordingly as a result of this examination the determination of the department dated December 8, 1925, so far as it relates to that portion of the Annisquam river along the westerly and northerly shores of Thurston's and Wheeler's Points northerly from a point opposite the northerly extremity of Pearce's Island is hereby suspended until May 15, 1931, unless sooner revoked as a result of subsequent inspection.

This section of the department in no way affects the findings on the other portions of Gloucester harbor or the Annisquam river.

Respectfully,

George H. Bigelow, M. D.
Commissioner of Public Health.

N. S. Dried Fish Markets.

It would seem that the price of the summer catch of the Lunenburg fleet has been finally set at \$6 per quintal for large and \$5 for small fish. A few cargoes were taken over at \$6.25 and \$5.00, but later purchases were at the rates first mentioned. This, needless to say, is not good business for the fishermen, for not only is it a much lower price than last year, but also the catch was of much smaller proportions. Incidentally, last year's price of Lunenburg summer catch was \$8.50 for large and \$8 for small. It may be said, too, that even with the lower price paid by exporters this year it is doubtful if sales prospects in West India markets warrant the expectation that on the transaction they will get a new dollar for an old one. The trouble is that West India markets are being cruelly overloaded by consignments from Newfoundland; the latter had quite a heavy stock of fish this year which was unsuitable for her regular market, so she is doing the best she can to get rid of it in the West Indies. But there is even more than Newfoundland's competition to be met in the West India markets at the present time: Norway is quoting some very low prices in Cuba and even England is offering dried fish, the by-product of her fresh fish supply, at very low prices. It is hard to tell then, even with the small quantity, as compared with previous years, there is of Lunenburg fish today, whether it will all be wanted in the West India market. Exporters are hoping that it will, but they are not anticipating any profit on their sales even with the low prices paid; in fact we think many of them would have postponed purchases for some time to come were it not for the fact that they do not wish the Lunenburg fishermen to become so discouraged as to lose interest in the industry and turn their attention for the future to something else.

The news from other world markets generally is that supplies of dried fish are heavy and demand dull. It looks very much as though Iceland would have to take a heavy loss on her operation this year and the news from London is that because of these losses, those who were financing the Iceland industry this year are likely to restrict advances of money for next year. This, however, is not positive, so we shall have to wait for a few months to see what happens. Iceland, as we have frequently said, is the fly in the ointment, the thorn in the flesh of other countries engaged in the dried fish industry, and if through any cause her output next year should be reduced, it will be a most excellent thing for other countries and incidentally, perhaps, not a bad thing for Iceland herself.—Maritime Merchant.

NO ARRIVALS AGAIN TODAY

THREE SMALL TRAWLERS WITH
2100 POUNDS YESTERDAY
AFTERNOON.

It was a quiet day on the water-front. Not even the gill netters landed and the only receipts during the past 24 hours was from three small shore boats which landed 2100 pounds between them at the Commercial Fish Company's wharf. A couple of draggers came down from Boston to re-fit, and sch. Hesperus came down from the Pier to haul out on the railways for an overhauling.

Gloucester Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and fares in detail:
Boat Frances C., trawling, 1000 lbs. fresh fish.
Boat D229, trawling, 300 lbs. fresh fish.
Boat Madona Paradisio, trawling, 800 lbs. fresh fish.
Sch. Hesperus, via Boston.
Sch. Babe Sears, via Boston.
Sch. Evelyn G. Sears, via Boston.

On the Railways.

Sch. Hesperus is on Parkhurst's railways.

BOSTON PRICES AGAIN MOVE UP

HADDOCK TOUCHED \$8 TODAY—
RECEIPTS TOTAL ONLY
400,000 POUNDS.

A fleet of 17 furnished the supply to dealers on the Boston fish pier this morning. Fares were small. Total receipts were 307,000 pounds of groundfish and 93,000 pounds of mixed fish. A continued brisk demand kept prices up. Haddock brought \$7.50 to \$8; large cod, \$8 to \$10 and markets, \$5 to \$6.

Boston Arrivals and Receipts.

The arrivals and fares in detail:
Str. Newton, 44,000 haddock, 700 cod, 7500 mixed fish.
Str. Coot, 25,000 haddock, 2500 cod, 2300 mixed fish.
Str. Comber, 14,000 haddock, 4500 cod, 38,000 mixed fish.
Str. Wave, 12,000 haddock, 2500 cod, 9000 mixed fish.
Sch. John Mantia, 8000 haddock, 600 cod, 2500 sole.
Boat Lucia, 23,000 haddock, 1500 cod, 2500 mixed fish.
Boat Gertrude Parker, 17,000 haddock, 8000 mixed fish.
Boat Bettina, 12,000 haddock, 800 sole.
Boat R. Eugene Ashley, 33,000 haddock, 2000 cod, 8000 sole.
Sch. Wanderer, 20,000 haddock, 11,000 cod.
Sch. J. M. Marshall, 20,000 haddock, 17,000 cod, 6000 cusk.
Boat Cornell, 13,000 haddock, 800 cod, 11,000 mixed fish.
Boat Geraldine and Phyllis, 11,000 haddock, 500 cod, 200 mixed fish.
Boat Josie II., 3300 mixed fish.
Boat Automatic II., 3000 mixed fish.
Boat Robert and Edwin, 3100 mixed fish.
Boat Annie, 2500 mixed fish.
Haddock, \$7.50 to \$8 per cwt.; large cod, \$8 to \$10; market cod, \$5 to \$6; hake, \$4 to \$6; pollock, \$3 to \$3.50; cusk, \$4; lemon sole, 10 cents per pound; black backs, 6 cents; yellow tails, 3-1-2 cents; dabs, 2-1-2 cents; catfish, 4 cents.

NEW TRAWLER NEARLY READY FOR LAUNCHING

The new beam trawler Brookline being built at the yard of Arthur D. Story in Essex is nearly ready for launching, and will probably leave the ways either the latter part of this week or the first of next week. The craft is similar to the Newton launched recently, and is for Boston parties.

N. F. Herring Fishery.

There was some improvement in the herring fishery in Bay of Islands since our last issue, and on Saturday good catches were taken. However the season is so far advanced now that there is little likelihood of catch being even an average one. To date it is only about 20 per cent what it was this date last year. The Str. Hello took away about 500 packages last week.—Bay of Islands Western Star.

N. S. Lobsters

At the Fish Cannery Section (C. M. A.) annual meeting held in Halifax November 26, a conference was held with fisheries officials from Ottawa along with some from Nova Scotia and members of the fisheries experimental station. Reports regarding the review of lobster canners made during the past season showed that the standard of these had been perceptibly improved since their previous inspection, but there are still many plants that do not come up to the required standard. In view of the dual control of these establishments between the Federal and Provincial governments, resolutions were passed asking that efforts be made to have matters adjusted so that progress can be made in raising the standards so that a uniform good quality of Canadian canned lobsters can be obtained, and a general observance of the regulations to that end enforced.

Quality was the keynote of an article read there that was freely discussed with Dr. Hamer, representing the Fishermen's Unions, and Mr. Webb, of Messrs. Cockfield, Brown & Company, Ltd., who are investigating matters on behalf of the Canadian government. Considerable discussion ensued regarding the subsidized freight service undertaken by the fisheries department last season as regards its effects upon the fresh lobster markets and the future conduct of this branch of the business. Some averred that because of these subsidized shipments being considered as a dumping of Canadian stocks into the American markets, so that the Maine fishermen are able to sell their recent catches at only 20 cents per pound, compared with 45 cents a pound at the same period of last year, an agitation for an import duty of 10 cents per pound has been inaugurated. Several operators from other parts of the Canadian coast declared, too, that the special concessions made for the fishermen of Halifax and Guysboro counties were unfair to the fishermen of the other counties.

Lobster markets generally are dormant just now and despite lower prices current throughout the year the demand has not perceptibly improved and a large carryover into the following season is generally predicted.—Maritime Merchant.

Shifting to Dragging.

Schs. Doris M. Hawes and Josephine and Mary are shifting over to flounder dragging.

N. S. Pickled Fish.

No. 1 July grocery herring are selling at \$8 ex store. The demand is reported about normal. Nearly every autumn a few Newfoundland fall splits are sold in this market, but owing to the failure of the Newfoundland fishery practically nothing has been received this autumn, says the Maritime Merchant.

Export demand for alewives is slow. Consumption in the West Indies has been curtailed considerably. The price is steady at \$5.25 ex boat.

No improvement is reported in the demand for fall fat mackerel. Prices are very low. No. 1 are priced at \$15 and Newfoundlands at \$12 ex store.

Spring mackerel are moving a little more freely into the Halifax market from the Eastern outports. The past few fall seasons the fishermen who held until late in the year before marketing secured somewhat better prices than those who sold during the summer, but this fall the expected advance did not materialize. There is an ample supply in sight for requirements until next spring and unless there is an improvement in consumption stocks will overlap when new catch of fish comes along. The market is unchanged at \$7.50 to \$7.75 ex boat.